



## Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project

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### Executive Summary

*Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project* is a unique Holocaust education partnership that promotes tolerance and the protection of human rights against bigotry and hate through arts, education and public dialogue. The original project, launched in Austin, Texas from January/April 2005, was replicated in Pittsburgh from September/November 2009 with 21 unique community-based and educational initiatives. [www.balletaustin.org/light](http://www.balletaustin.org/light)

*Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project* challenges communities to work collaboratively to consider the “difficult knowledge” presented by the Holocaust. We ask citizens to hold themselves and each other accountable for any act of disregard for human rights and to learn by studying the ethical, historical and representation issues of the Holocaust through public lectures, a production by Ballet Austin, in-service training with teachers and other public conversations. Finally, we ask citizens to consider how the study of the Holocaust might foster dialogue regarding tolerance and contemporary issues of genocide, bigotry and hate.

In Austin, *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project* engaged citizens through:

- A Public Lectures Series on the Holocaust, representation and contemporary issues.
- A Professional Development Institute for Teachers (high school and middle school teachers of language arts and social studies).
- The “Coexistence” Exhibition from Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem.  
<http://www.coexistence.art.museum/coex/voyage/Austin.asp>
- Elie Wiesel, as the final speaker of the Public Lecture Series, for area high school and college students on the campus of The University of Texas.
- A Stephen Mills/Ballet Austin world premiere production entitled *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project* performed at Bass Concert Hall.
- A televised town hall meeting at KLRU featuring award-winning correspondent Linda Ellerbee.